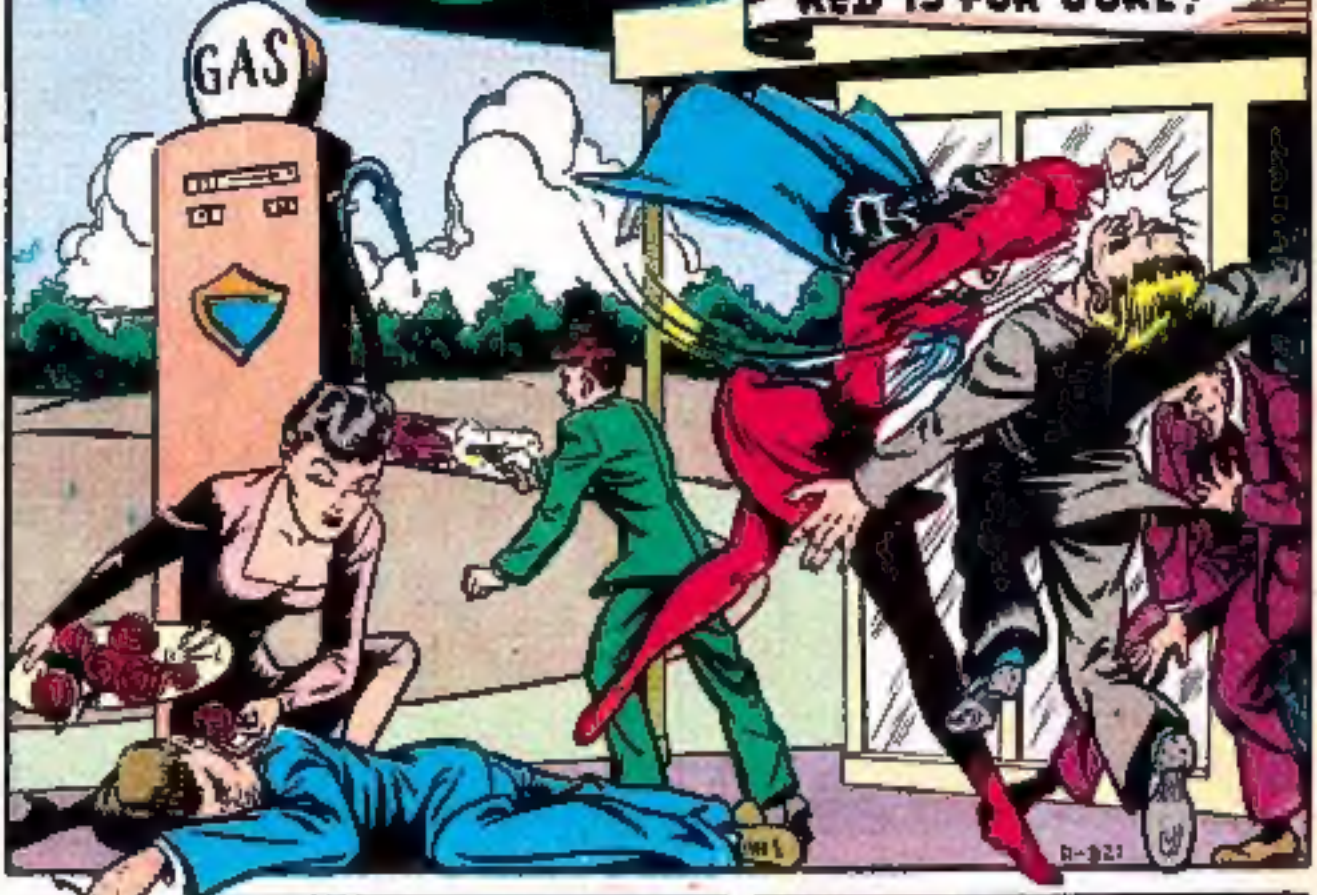
Miss AMERICA

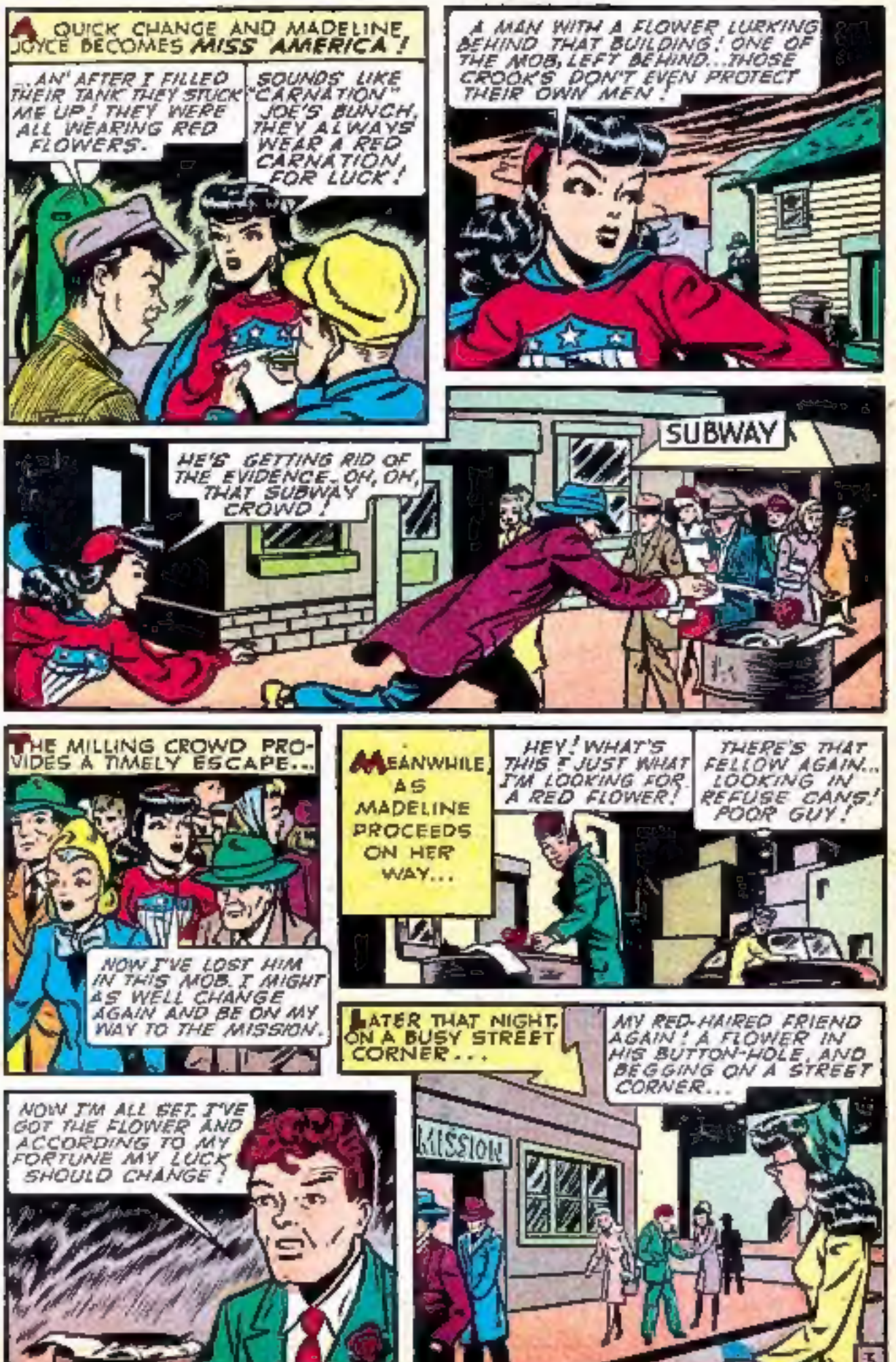
SUPERSTITION RUNS RAMPANT IN GANGLAND. BUT WHEN AN INNOCENT VICTIM IS DRAWN INTO A VICIOUS CIRCLE OF CRIME, **MISS AMERICA** ARRIVES TO EXTRACT THE CAT'S PAW FROM THE COALS AND BRING THE CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE WHEN FORTUNE DECREES THAT **"RED IS FOR GORE!"**

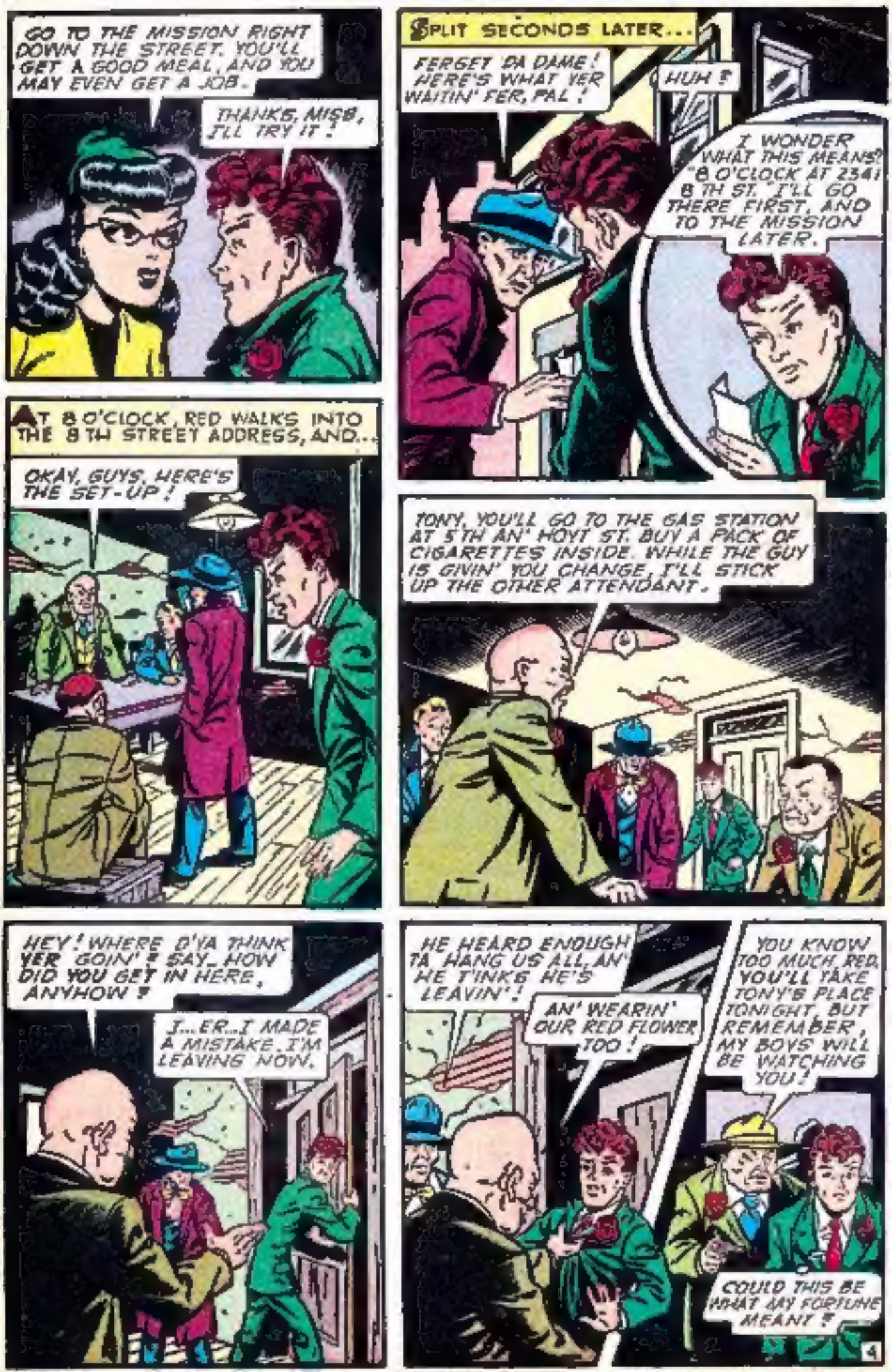


A ROOMING HOUSE IN THE OLD SECTION OF TOWN

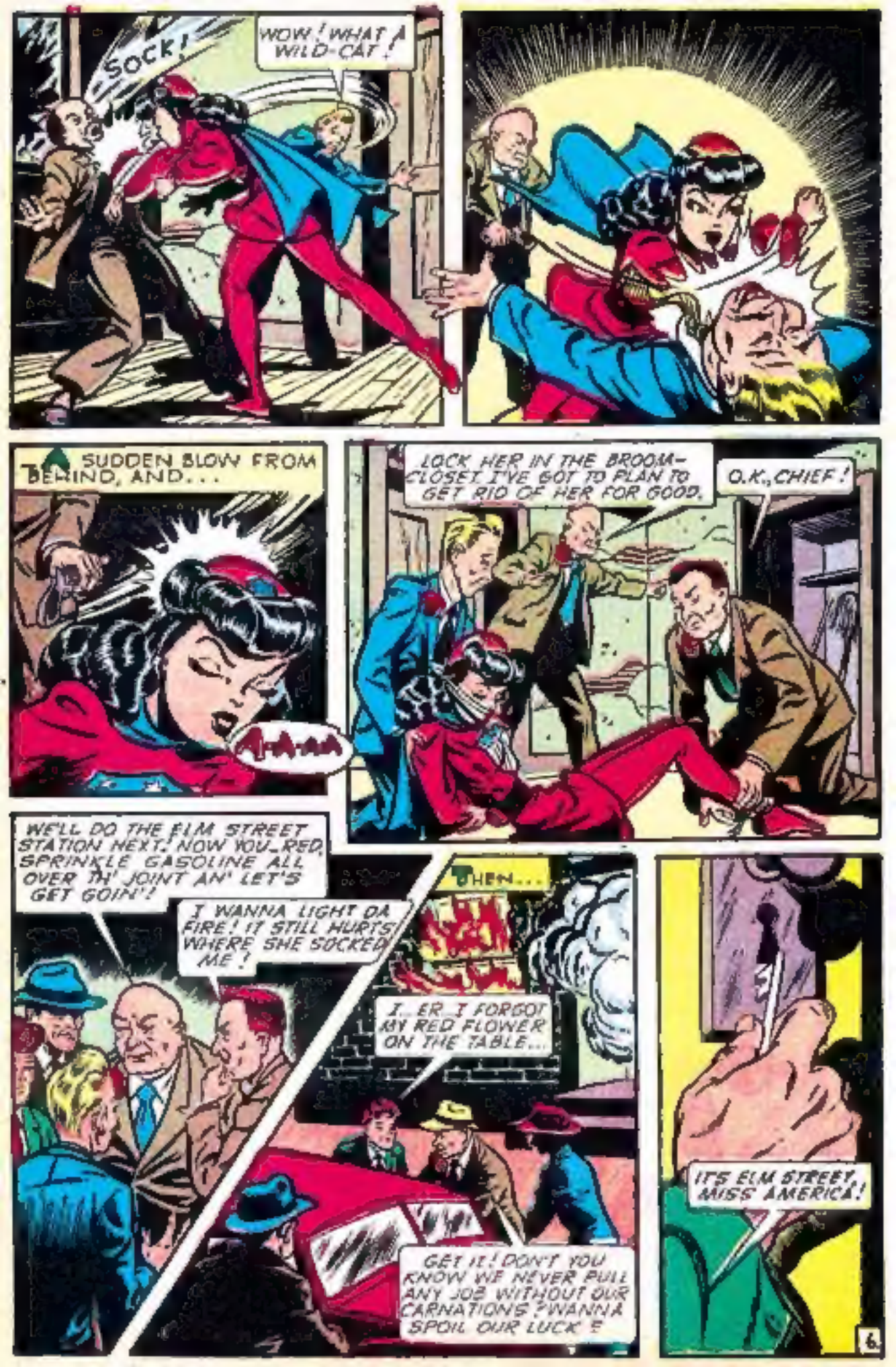
LATER...
OH, NO YOU DON'T! I'LL KEEP THOSE THINGS UNTIL YOU PAY UP YOUR BACK RENT!
O.K. KEEP THEM. I'LL GET A JOB AND PAY YOU EVERY CENT I OWE.

JUST AT THAT TIME, MADELINE JOYCE LEAVES HER LONG ISLAND HOME...
I THINK I'LL STOP AT MADISON STREET MISSION..SEE HOW THEY'RE GETTING ALONG...
SOON...
QUITE A CROWD! I WONDER WHAT THE ATTRACTION IS? I'LL HOP OVER AND TAKE A LOOK-SEE!
AND APPROACHING THE SAME CORNER FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION...
BROKE AND JOBLESS! I'M HOMELESS TOO! I MUST GET A JOB! HMM— WONDER WHAT THE CROWD IS FOR?
...AN' IT SEZ I'M GONNA MEET A RICH FELLER AN' GO TO EUROPE ON AN EXTENDED HONEYMOON!
MAKE MINE A GOOD ONE, POLLY...I'M BANKING MY LAST DIME ON YOU!
RED IS YOUR COLOR, YOU OUGHT TO KNOW! WEAR A RED FLOWER AND POVERTY WILL GO!
WEAR A RED FLOWER, HUH! WHERE WOULD I GET ONE? I HAVEN'T EVEN GOT A NICKEL FOR A CUP OF COFFEE!
I HOPE THAT FELLOW GOT SOME ENCOURAGEMENT OUT OF HIS FORTUNE. HE LOOKS AS IF HE NEEDS IT!
MADELINE CONTINUES ON HER WAY, WHEN SUDDENLY...
SHOTS! LOOKS LIKE THAT GAS STATION WAS JUST HELD UP! MISS AMERICA MAY BE ABLE TO LEND A HAND!
2


A QUICK CHANGE AND MADELINE JOYCE BECOMES MISS AMERICA!
...AN' AFTER I FILLED THEIR TANK THEY STUCK ME UP! THEY WERE ALL WEARING RED FLOWERS.
SOUNDS LIKE "CARNATION" JOE'S BUNCH, THEY ALWAYS WEAR A RED CARNATION FOR LUCK!
A MAN WITH A FLOWER LURKING BEHIND THAT BUILDING! ONE OF THE MOB, LEFT BEHIND...THOSE CROOKS DON'T EVEN PROTECT THEIR OWN MEN!
SUBWAY
HE'S GETTING RID OF THE EVIDENCE-OH, OH, THAT SUBWAY CROWD!
THE MILLING CROWD PROVIDES A TIMELY ESCAPE...
NOW I'VE LOST HIM IN THIS MOB. I MIGHT AS WELL CHANGE AGAIN AND BE ON MY WAY TO THE MISSION.
MEANWHILE, AS MADELINE PROCEEDS ON HER WAY...
HEY! WHAT'S THIS? JUST WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR! A RED FLOWER!
THERE'S THAT FELLOW AGAIN... LOOKING IN REFUSE CANS! POOR GUY!
LATER THAT NIGHT, ON A BUSY STREET CORNER...
MY RED-HAIRED FRIEND AGAIN! A FLOWER IN HIS BUTTON-HOLE, AND BEGGING ON A STREET CORNER...
MISSION
NOW I'M ALL SET. I'VE GOT THE FLOWER AND ACCORDING TO MY FORTUNE MY LUCK SHOULD CHANGE!
3


GO TO THE MISSION RIGHT DOWN THE STREET. YOU'LL GET A GOOD MEAL, AND YOU MAY EVEN GET A JOB.
THANKS, MISS, I'LL TRY IT!
SPLIT SECONDS LATER...
FERGET DA DAME! HERE'S WHAT YER WAITIN' FER, PAL!
HUH?
I WONDER WHAT THIS MEANS? "8 O'CLOCK AT 2341 8TH ST." I'LL GO THERE FIRST, AND TO THE MISSION LATER.
AT 8 O'CLOCK, RED WALKS INTO THE 8TH STREET ADDRESS, AND...
OKAY, GUYS, HERE'S THE SET-UP!
TONY, YOU'LL GO TO THE GAS STATION AT 5TH AN' HOYT ST. BUY A PACK OF CIGARETTES INSIDE. WHILE THE GUY IS GIVIN' YOU CHANGE, I'LL STICK UP THE OTHER ATTENDANT.
HEY! WHERE D'YA THINK YER GOIN'? SAY_ HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE, ANYHOW?
I...ER...I MADE A MISTAKE. I'M LEAVING NOW.
HE HEARD ENOUGH TA HANG US ALL, AN' HE T'INKS HE'S LEAVIN'!
AN' WEARIN' OUR RED FLOWER TOO!
YOU KNOW TOO MUCH, RED. YOU'LL TAKE TONY'S PLACE TONIGHT, BUT REMEMBER, MY BOYS WILL BE WATCHING YOU!
COULD THIS BE WHAT MY FORTUNE MEANT?
4

AT NINE O'CLOCK THAT NIGHT...
C'MON, STICK 'EM UP! HAND OVER YER ROLL!
I WANT SOME FLOWERS ER...ER, I MEAN SOME CIGARETTES.
GARAGE
MADELINE STOPS IN AT THAT MOMENT...
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT, MISS, I'VE JUST BEEN HELD UP! GOTTA CALL THE POLICE!
HELD UP! JUST A MINUTE - COULD IT HAVE BEEN "CARNATION" JOE'S BUNCH?
COME TO THINK OF IT, THEY ALL WERE WEARING RED FLOWERS!
MOMENTS LATER, MADELINE JOYCE AGAIN BECOMES MISS AMERICA
SOUNDS LIKE MY RED-HEADED PAN-HANDLER! HE MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GIVE A CLUE. I DOUBT IF HE'S ONE OF JOE'S BUNCH.
SEARCH THROUGH DESERTED CITY STREETS AND THEN...
THE FELLOW WHO TALKED TO ME WAS RED-HEADED, AN' HE MUMBLED SOMETHING ABOUT FLOWERS FIRST!
SOMETHING RED THROWN OUT OF THAT CAR! COULD IT BE..?
A RED CARNATION!! THAT RED-HEAD IS OKAY. THIS MUST BE THEIR HIDE-OUT!
AND MOMENTS LATER...
SIX HUNDRED AN' SEVENTY-SIX, SIX HUN... WHAT'S THAT?
RIGHT, SONNY BOY! I KNOW I WASN'T INVITED, BUT...
MISS AMERICA!
5


SOCK!
WOW! WHAT A WILD-CAT!
A SUDDEN BLOW FROM BEHIND, AND...
AHHHH
LOCK HER IN THE BROOM-CLOSET. I'VE GOT TO PLAN TO GET RID OF HER FOR GOOD.
O.K., CHIEF!
WE'LL DO THE ELM STREET STATION NEXT! NOW YOU-RED, SPRINKLE GASOLINE ALL OVER TH' JOINT AN' LET'S GET GOIN'!
I WANNA LIGHT DA FIRE! IT STILL HURTS WHERE SHE SOCKED ME!
THEN...
I... ER... I FORGOT MY RED FLOWER ON THE TABLE...
GET IT! DON'T YOU KNOW WE NEVER PULL ANY JOB WITHOUT OUR CARNATIONS? WANNA SPOIL OUR LUCK?
IT'S ELM STREET, MISS AMERICA!
6

IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY RED-HEADED FRIEND, THOSE LUGS WOULD HAVE BURNED ME ALIVE! SO IT'S ELM STREET, IS IT? WELL, HERE I COME!
SOON...
GET 'EM UP! WE'LL RELIEVE YA OF YER ROLL!
YOW! IT'S MISS AMERICA AGAIN!
WELL, "CARNATION" JOE, YOUR TALISMAN DIDN'T DO MUCH GOOD AFTER ALL, DID IT?
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS LONG AGO!
UGH!
AFTER THE POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED...
YOU SURE PUT THE SKIDS ON JOE AND HIS GANG, MISS AMERICA!!
PART OF THE CREDIT GOES TO THIS MAN WHO WAS AN UNWILLING ACCOMPLICE!
IT ALL STARTED WITH THAT PARROT AND THE FORTUNE!
YES, I KNOW, RED. YOU WERE JUST A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
WEEKS LATER, ON A CITY STREET...
GEE, IT WAS SWELL OF YOU TO GET ME OFF ON PROBATION, MISS AMERICA! AND THROUGH THE MISSION I GOT THIS JOB!
JUST STICK TO IT, RED. YOU'LL MAKE GOOD!
STILL LATER, AS FORTUNE CONTINUES TO SMILE...
HOW! ABOUT A NICE RED CARNATION, MISTER?
GOSH, NO! ANYTHING BUT THAT!
THE END

MARVEL
MYSTERY
COMICS
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